Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 00981 102037Z ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4060

CONFIDENTIAL CAIRO 00981

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PROG

SUBJ: ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR EGYPT

REF: CAIRO 980

- 1. REFCABLE TRANSMITTED A LETTER FROM DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER KAISSOUNI ON HIS VIEWS RGARDING U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, WHICH WE HAD REQUESTED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HUMPHREY REPORT.
- 2. PLEASE NOTE THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF THIS LETTER WHICH STATES: QUOTE IN CONCLUSION MY GOVERNMENT IS DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE FOR THE LEVEL OF U.S. ASSISTANCE THAT HAS BEEN PROVIDED. IN CONSIDERING OUR REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN AND IN LIGHT OF CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES, HOWEVER, WE ARE PRESENTLY CONSIDERING A REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE. THIS WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF A SEPARATE NOTE TO YOU. UNQUOTE.
- 3. KAISSOUNI HAS INFORMED US RECENTLY THAT THE GOE HAS UNDER SERIOUS CONSIDERATION A FORMAL REQUEST TO US FOR ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN FY 1978 AND FY 1979. CONFIDENTIAL

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HE STATED THAT THIS IDEA HAD EMANATED FROM DISCUSSIONS WHICH MINISTER OF MANPOWER SAAD AHMAD REPORTED TO PRESIDENT SADAT THAT HE AND AMBASSADOR GHORBAL HAD HELD WITH SENATOR STONE DURING SAAD AHMAD'S RECENT TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES. STONE HAD REPORTEDLY INDICATED THAT, GIVEN SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVES SINCE NOVEMBER, THIS APPEARED TO BE A PROPITIOUS TIME FOR THE GOE TO CONSIDER

REQUESTING ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. STONE IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT IF THE GOE SHOULD MAKE SUCH A REQUEST, HE WOULD DO ALL HE COULD TO SUPPORT IT WITHIN THE SENATE. APPARENTLY THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF THE SPECIFIC LEVELS OF NEW ASSISTANCE WHICH MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE.

- 4. WHILE KAISSOUNI HAS HAD SOME FIGURES IN MIND, HE HAS NOT YET OFFICIALLY INFORMED US JUST WHAT MIGHT BE REQUESTED. WE DO KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAS HAD A SMALL GROUP WORKING ON IDEAS FOR SUCH A REQUEST AND HAS BEGUN DRAFTING SOME DOCUMENTATION. IT IS UNDOUBTEDLY THIS EXPECTATION OF A FURTHER LETTER FROM HIM ABOUT ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE WHICH IS REFERRED TO IN HIS LETTER ABOUT THE HUMPHREY REPORT.
- 5. WE ARE KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH KAISSOUNI AND HIS STAFF AND WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED AS SOON AS THERE IS ANY MORE DEFINITIVE INFORMATION ON THIS MATTER. EILTS

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